

H1-B TECHNICAL SKILLS TRAINING GRANTS

Grantee: Workforce Essentials, Inc.

Round: 3 **Region:** 3

Grant Amount: \$2,800,000

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Duration of Grant: November 15, 2000 to November 14, 2002

Population Served: Targets incumbents workers who are either underemployed or have potential to benefit substantially from technical training; dislocated workers due to recent plant closings; recently discharged military personnel from Fort Campbell; and students entering the labor force.

Geographic Area Served: Nashville, Clarksville, and 11 surrounding counties

**Targeted Industries/
Jobs/Skills** Occupational Clusters in both Local Workforce Invest Areas 8 and 9. Occupational clusters range a variety of field, such as health care, computer systems, construction technology, and plastics.

Uniqueness of Proposal: Partners with an extensive number of employers who have committed to the project and provided matching funds. The matching funds assist with program cost-effectiveness and sustainability. The number of partnerships committed to this project reflects a collaborative effort to fill the regional skills gap.

Partnerships: Tennessee Local Workforce Investment Boards: Local Workforce Investment Area 8 and Local Workforce Investment Area 9; 22 regional employers (TriStar Health Care Systems, Sumner County Health, CEI Company, Inland Paperboard, Aqua Glass, The Parent Company, GF Office Products, Telco, Inc., Smithfield Industries, Mueller, Bosch Braking, Sumiden Wire Products, Tennsco, Standard Gypsum, Premdor, Teksid, Saint Thomas Hospital, Zycron, Celestica, Aerostructures, Trane, UNARCO); International Association of Machinists, local economic development agencies; regional training institutions; 13 local elected officials

THE NEED: Regional businesses expressed a need for training far in excess of the grant award, reflecting a high demand for qualified individuals to fill job occupations. The labor shortage is most pronounced in the technical fields.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PROJECT:

This program alleviates the pressure of employers who are having trouble filling job openings due to a relatively low supply of qualified individuals in the region by identifying, assessing, training, and placing qualified individuals into specified positions within a relatively short time

frame. Effective assessment will be a critical component of the program.